

undersigned spoke with Supervisory Examiner Mehta, who said that another Examiner would call. On November 8, 2002, Examiner Tim Johnson, at the direction of Supervisory Examiner Mehta, called the undersigned to discuss the Restriction/Election matter.

The undersigned explained to Examiner Johnson that Examiner Choobin's Species grouping was incorrect as to Invention II according to the Applicants, and explained that the Applicants submitted that the following was the correct Species grouping for Invention II:

Species 1: claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 17, 18, 23, 24 (fourth embodiment, Figure 15, corresponding to the first object at page 17, line 20 of the Specification);

Species 2: claims 25-60 (seventh-twelfth embodiments, Figures 19-28, corresponding to the second object at page 31, line 30 of the Specification) -- where claim 25 is a generic claim; and

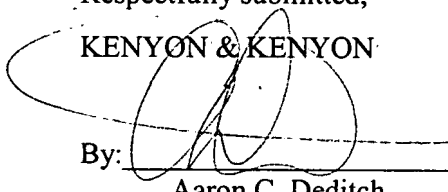
Species 3: claims 61-72 (thirteenth embodiment, Figs. 31-33, corresponding to the third object at page 49, line 19 of the Specification) -- where claim 61 is a generic claim.

Examiner Tim Johnson said that he agreed with Applicants' above proposed Species groupings for Invention II, that an Examiner's interview summary would not be necessary so long as the phone conference was made of record in the Response To Restriction/Election (which is presented in this Response), and that the Restriction/Election could be made without traverse based on the agreed upon Species groupings of Invention II.

Accordingly, based on the agreement with Examiner Tim Johnson, Applicants hereby elect without traverse Invention II (claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 17, 18, 23 and 24 to 72), and Species 2 of Invention II, where Species 2 includes claims 25 to 60 (seventh to twelfth embodiments of Figures 19 to 28), and where claim 25 is a generic claim. In short, claims 25 to 60 are elected for consideration.

Applicant respectfully requests an early and favorable action on the merits.

Dated: 11/8/2002

Respectfully submitted,
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